selected software program, and for selectively disabling the sampling of the selected software program, the sample means functioning without the need for any hardware components and circuitry in addition to the user-selected computer; [and]

monitoring means for generating a code on the user-selected computer for use in unlocking [the] a particular software program in response to a request by the user to purchase the particular software program [programs] and for including in the code an identification of which ones of the plurality of software programs [was] were sampled by the user and how many times each of the plurality of software programs was sampled by the user; and

purchase means for facilitating the purchase of the particular software program, the purchase means requiring the code to be provided to the distribution center, the distribution center using the code to generate a password for unlocking the particular software program on the user-selected computer.

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26. (Twice Amended) A computer program product, comprising:

a computer usable medium having computer readable program code means embodied therein for causing a user-selected computer to demonstrate software programs to a potential purchaser of the programs on the user-selected computer and to gather marketing information related to the demonstration of the programs and provide the marketing information to a software distribution center, the user-selected computer being a computer on which the software program may be used if the software program is purchased by the potential purchaser, the computer readable program code means in the computer program product comprising:

receive means for causing the computer to receive a plurality of software programs to be demonstrated;

protection means for causing the computer to maintain each of the software programs in [an undivided] a locked state in order to prevent unauthorized duplication of the software programs;

sample means for causing the user-selected computer to enable any of the software programs for execution upon selection by a user, allow the user to subsequently sample the selected software program, maintain the selected software program in the locked state during the

sampling of the selected software program in order to prevent unauthorized duplication of the selected software program, and selectively disable the sampling of the selected software program, the sample means functioning without the need for any hardware components and circuitry in addition to the user-selected computer; [and]

monitoring means for causing the user-selected computer to generate a code in response to a request to purchase a particular software program, wherein the code identifies at least one [that identifies a particular] software program in the plurality of software programs and contains information relating to sampling of the [particular] software program by the user; and

purchase means for causing the user-selected computer to facilitate the purchase of the particular software program, the purchase means causing the user-selected computer to require the code to be provided to the distribution center, the distribution center using the code to generate a password for unlocking the particular software program on the user-selected computer.

Please enter new claim 28 as follows:

28. (New) A computerized method for demonstrating, on a user-selected computer, software programs to a potential purchaser of the programs and for gathering marketing information related to the demonstration of the programs and providing the marketing information to a distribution center, comprising the steps executed by a computer of:

receiving a plurality of software programs to be demonstrated;

maintaining each of the software programs in a locked state in order to prevent unauthorized duplication of the software programs;

enabling any of the software programs for execution on the user-selected computer upon selection by a user, allowing the user to subsequently sample the selected software program, maintaining the selected software program in the locked state during the sampling of the selected software program in order to prevent unauthorized duplication of the selected software program, and selectively disabling the sampling of the selected software program, the sample means functioning without the need for any hardware components and circuitry in addition to the user-selected computer;